

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

displaying, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of enterprise computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

receiving selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the selected user;

receiving management information from the network administrator;

identifying, as target computers to receive a modification, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

selecting each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the selection information; [[and]]

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

modifying each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic; and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein modifying includes transmitting software to each of the target computers that are used by the selected user from a software database, and installing the software on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

15. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

16. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

17. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

18. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

19. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

20. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

21. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A computer recording medium including computer executable code for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the computer recording medium comprising:

code for displaying, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of enterprise computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of enterprise computers representing all of the network computers that are used by the selected user;

code for receiving selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the selected user;

code for receiving management information from the network administrator;

code for identifying, as target computers, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

code for selecting each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the selection information; [[and]]

code for comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

code for allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

code for modifying each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved.

Claims 24-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

30. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

31. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

32. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein the code for modifying comprises code for transmitting software to each of the target computers from a software database, and code for installing the software on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, wherein management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

37. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

38. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

39. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

40. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

41. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

42. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

43. (Original) The computer recording medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

code for checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A programmed computer system for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, the programmed computer system residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

display, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of network computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

receive selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the selected user;

receive management information from the network administrator;

identify, as target computers, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

select each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the selection information; [[and]]

compare the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

allow the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

modify each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved.

Claims 46-50 (Cancelled)

51. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

52. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

53. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

54. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

55. (Previously Presented) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to transmit software to each of the target computers from a software database, and install the software on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

56. (Previously Presented) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on each of the target computers.

57. (Previously Presented) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to display the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

58. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to display information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

59. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to provide a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

60. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to modify a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

61. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to store at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

62. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to interface with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

63. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to populate an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

64. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to populate a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

65. (Original) The programmed computer system as recited in Claim 45, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to check newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a plurality of computers, comprising:

a plurality of network computers; and

a managing computer coupled to the network computers by a network and operable to manage the plurality of network computers, the managing computer comprising a central processing unit operable to:

display, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of network computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

receive selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the selected user;

receive management information from the network administrator;

identify, as target computers, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user;

select each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the selection information; [[and]]

compare the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

allow the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

modify each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved.

Claims 68-72 (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

74. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

75. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the selection information further comprises a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

76. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the selection information further comprises a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

77. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein when modifying the at least one selected computer, the central processing unit is operable to:
transmit software to each of the target computers from a software database, and
install the software on each of the target computers.

78. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the management information comprises a software identifier and an action to be performed on each of the target computers.

79. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to display the management information associated with the user to the network administrator, wherein the management information includes at least one installation associated with the user, and at least one task associated with the user.

80. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to display information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user to the network administrator.

81. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to provide a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

82. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to modify a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

83. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to store at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

84. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to interface with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

85. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to populate an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

86. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to populate a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

87. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one selected computer is further operable to check newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

displaying, to a network administrator resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a single user, the plurality of network computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the single user;

receiving selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the user;

receiving management information from the network administrator;

identifying, as target computers, all of the plurality of network computers that are used by the single user;

based on the selection information, selecting each of the plurality of network computers that are associated with the single user; [[and]]

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

modifying each of the plurality of network computers associated with the single user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved.

91. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

displaying, to a network administrator resource information identifying a plurality of network computers that are used by a single user;

receiving selection information from the network administrator, the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the user;

receiving management information from the network administrator;

identifying, as target computers, each of the plurality of network computers that are used by the single user;

based on the selection information, selecting each of the plurality of network computers that are associated with the single user; [[and]]

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; and

modifying each of the plurality of network computers associated with the single user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved; and

wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the target computers.

92. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user characteristic is one of changed and added.

93. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein the user characteristic is related to an employment function of the user.

94. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein the user characteristic is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier.

95. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic; and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers.

96. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein the selection information further includes a computer characteristic, and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group, a geographic identifier, and configuration information.

97. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein modifying includes transmitting software to each of the target computers that are used by the selected user from a software database, and installing the software on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

98. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, wherein the management information includes a software identifier and an action to be performed on each of the target computers that are used by the selected user.

99. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising displaying the management information associated with the user, wherein the management information includes at least one installation associated with the user and at least one task associated with the user.

100. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

101. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

102. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

103. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

104. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

105. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

106. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 90, further comprising checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.